

SUNDAY, MAY 2, from 1 to 6 P.M.
VILTIS' 13TH BIRTHDAY PROGRAM

All street cars, buses and autos will lead to Diana Ballroom (I hope) on May 2. The time is between 1 to 6 PM. There we will celebrate VILTIS'ES birthday. The young'n was born in May 1942 in Fairhope, Alabama.

Programs will take place every hour on the hour. Many of the dances will make their first appearance in California; The Mallorcan Copeo, Catalan Castell, Ter Sol and a Sardana. Eakersfield dancers will present Semmi Baban Semi, a Hungarian Csardosok. The Gandy Dancers of L. A. will give the full length Bialy Mazur. John Filcich from Oakland and group will dance kolos. Lucille Žaiakis folk dancers will do a group of Lithuanian dances. Lithuanian dances will also be done by a specially trained group from San Diego. The vivacious Mexican Las Espuelas will be danced by Roy Hinton and Angelina Pan. The difficult and exiting Ukrainian sword dance, Honta, will be danced by Will Kinsey, agile dancer. A Japanese fisherman's dance will be performed by Clinton Taylor. Vyts will do several solos. Bob Olsar and his orchestra will play polkas, waltzes, ragtime and folk dance music, so will the Merry Merrills. Plenty folk dancing for participation and plenty new folk dances will be learned that afternoon. So, come all ye faithful, dance and be merry and have a good time at the VILTIS Birthday party.



John Filcich (to right) and his Koomaniacs from San Francisco caught in action. This group is appearing at the VILTIS Birthday Party and at the State-Wide festival in Long Beach. (Foto Philip Maron.)

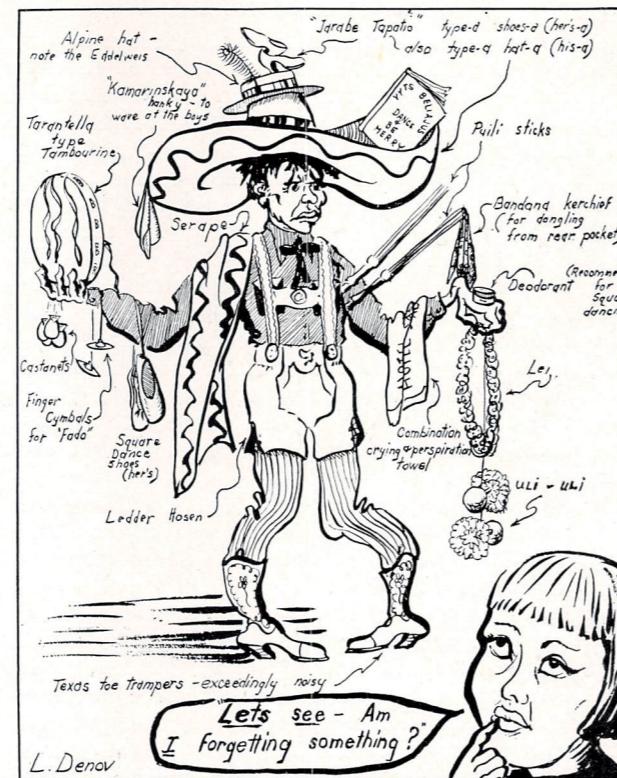
LONG BEACH SITE FOR STATEWIDE FIESTA

California's annual Statewide Folk and Square Dance Festival will be held this year in Long Beach, during May 28-31, at the Municipal Auditorium (American Ave. at Seaside). This 9th Annual mammoth folk festival will be preceded by pre-pre parties and will be followed with after-after parties until Tuesday, June 1st. There will be two dance institutes, displays, folk, square, round and contra dances galore, as well as exhibition numbers by the finest folk dance groups of the State. Everything will be on a large scale as only Californians know how to do it. The sponsors of the festival are: The Folk Dance Federation of California, Long Beach Recreation Dept. and Long Beach Convention Bureau. The Long Beach Co-op Folk Dancers will be the hosts. For further information write to H. S. Hicks, P.O. Box 728, Wilmington, Calif.

TO THE LIBAWS AND DAPHNE UPTON

I humbly express thanks to the above swell pals who showed great concern for getting the festival under way. Merci Beaucoup and so forth.

"AIN'T IT THE TRUTH!?"



This is just what you'll exclaim when you'll see this cartoon by our Lou Denov. Out California way especially, when one goes to a folk dance session, it is almost like moving day. Lou hardly exaggerated, in fact, a few more items missing, such as the bulky voluminous square dance skirts plus clothes to change after the others become sweated up, etc., etc.

VYTS' TRAVEL LOG

- June 5 - Corvallis, Oregon. (University)
- 8 - Eugene, Oregon. (University)
- 9 - Salem, Oregon
- 10 - Portland, Oregon
- 11 - Seattle, Washington
(Other dates in the process for Seattle and Portland).
- 17 - Portland, Ore. (Jewish Comm. Center).
- 19 - Roseburg, Oregon
- 20 - Klamath Fall, Ore.
- July 12-19 - Idyllwild Folk Dance Workshop, California
- July 26-31 and August 2-8 - College of the Pacific, Stockton, Calif.
- August 15-22 - Rocky Mountain Folk Dance Camp, Golden (Denver), Colo.
- August 28, Sept. 6 - Stokes Forest (American Squares) New Jersey.
- Plus sessions in Minneapolis, Minn., Cleveland and Dayton, Ohio, Toronto, Canada and other places.

MOTHER'S DAY PICNIC

The Lithuanian American Club of San Diego will sponsor a Mothers' Day Picnic in the Golden Hills section of Balboa Park at about 25th St. on Sunday, May 9th. There will be a program of folk dances and songs and general merriment. It's an all day affair. Bring your babies, your mother (father, too) and your lunch and join the party. A Lith flag (yellow, green and red) will indicate the spot.

THE VILTIS STORY

One of Constant HOPE

VILTIS began as a service letter, the suggestion of Hugh Jones, a Chicago friend who was stationed at Brookley Field, Mobile, Ala. He used to visit me often in Fairhope, Ala., which was some 25 miles southeast of Mobile (toward Pensacola). Noting how heavy my correspondence was with my many friends who served in the armed forces, he suggested that a service letter would alleviate that burden. At the same time, it would be a great service to my friends, since all my friends were friends of each other. Thus, they would be informed what their friends were doing as well as of my activities. After a few postponements and his continued insistence, the first letter appeared twelve years ago this May. Mrs. C. A. Gaston and son, Paul, of Fairhope, were the first mimeographers. The next few issues were released from the Alabama College For Women at Montevallo where I was on the summer staff. Then, back again to Fairhope.

In January 1944 I was hospitalized at the Cottage Hill Sanatorium, near Mobile, with a bad case of TB of the throat plus. The doctors "insisted" I had no chance to recover, and my "passing on" was a question of months. I was placed under a regime of absolute rest, and was permitted to write only a few post cards to notify friends of my location. I was told to do nothing, just be flat and be cheerful (?). Conditions were unsuitable for rest, relaxation or cheerfulness. Perhaps it was then that VILTIS turned out to be a blessing to me. I disobeyed the doctors injunctions; I did not stay put, for it was either to "rest" and aggravate myself, or to keep myself busy and at peace. I wrote and received approximately 20 letters a day, and VILTIS was growing until it reached a peak of 350 boys in the service all over the world. They all found encouragement, joy and a certain delightful happiness in VILTIS, and I found the same delight working on it. For a whole year the mimeographing was done by Mrs. Joseph Payson who contributed her time and paper during my critical period of illness. When the Paysons moved to Chicago, VILTIS started to appear in printed form (Sept. 1944), published by Mr. A. F. Gaston of the Fairhope Courier. There it was printed until May of 1945. The addressing, folding and mailing was done on a little bed-table which the late F/O Parker Totten had bought for me, and I worked on my cot (when the doctor was not around). VILTIS expanded, I recovered, and we both were discharged from Cottage Hill, on March 24th of 1945.

In Chicago, the printing was done by Algirdas Valas who printed VILTIS from June 1945 until December 1953 (inclusive). Our printer now, Antanas Skirius of Los Angeles, is also the publisher of "Lithuanian Days," a pictorial magazine.

During May 1951, I was hospitalized again. This time they didn't give months for "dying," but days, and on one occasion, just hours. I was a mess and dropped to 80 lbs. It was only through hope and trust in the mercies of the divine power of a loving God and the matchless institution JCRS of Spivak, Colorado (where great and loving care is likewise divinely inspired) that they were able to restore me back to health. This was accomplished with astonishment and great disbelief to the doctors and my host of friends. But the ways of God are wonderous. Though all that time, VILTIS (HOPE) was with me. I dared not let it go, even when I was unconscious and was not even aware of the administration of the Last Rites.

VILTIS is the Lithuanian word for "HOPE." I had hoped that by May of 1945 I would be discharged from the Sanatorium, that war would be over and that my brother, Kazy, would come back alive from the Pacific wars, and that my voice would be restored. I was discharged by then.



Hugh E. Jones, Jr. who first suggested VILTIS. For the past few years, Hugh was hospitalized at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Downey, Illinois.

Though the war was not quite over, it was in our favor, and Kazy—one of four that lived to tell the story of an original group of 150—had come back inspite of Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima. Tho still grating, my voice, which was completely gone for three years, and with the assurance of specialists that it would never be restored, is, nonetheless, 85 per cent restored. It is a story of faith, hope, trust and prayer. For all of this, I am grateful to the Divine Father Who has been with me during the years of hardship and great illness and Who has guided me that I may (to use the words of St. Francis) "bring love where there is hate, peace where there is strife, hope where there is despair and joy where there is sadness." God grant it be so.

Such is the story of VILTIS—Vyts - Fin.

KUR BAKUŽE SAMANOTA

(What Has Happened to the Cottage?)

Lithuanian Folk Song

What has happened to the cottage,
Cracks stuffed with moss?
And that apple tree of thick shade
Bearing fruit of gloss?

And the stream once gently flowing
Past my native home?
And the carefree days of gladness
Whereto are they gone?

That log cottage has since fallen.
Rotted has the tree.
Run dry has the stream refreshing,
Grief remains with me . . .
Run dry has the stream refreshing.
Grief remains with me.

Translated by V. F. Belaijus